

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LANCE
CORPORAL RAUL S. BRAVO, JR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of LCpl Raul S. Bravo, Jr. who died on Saturday, March 3, 2007, of injuries sustained in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lance Corporal Bravo, who was on his second tour of duty in Iraq, was killed by a roadside bomb during combat operations in the city of Qaim, Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Bravo was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

Lance Corporal Bravo, a 2004 graduate of Elko High School, was a hero whose desire to serve his country will forever make an impact on his family, his community and his country. He joined the United States Marine Corps to serve his country in the global war on terror. He will not only be remembered for his sacrifice and willing service, but for the extraordinary person that he was. His warmth and optimism brightened the lives of his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of LCpl Raul S. Bravo, Jr. who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while fighting the war on terror and defending democracy and freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF MACARIA
MABINI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the amazing life of Macaria Mabini on the occasion of her 90th birthday, and to thank her for all her contributions to northeast Ohio.

Born in the Philippines on March 10, 1917 as the granddaughter of Apolinario Mabini, the first prime minister of the Philippines, Macaria was destined for a life of distinction. She was a studious and talented youth, committed to her studies and her musical development as a pianist. Macaria received her bachelor of arts degree as well as her master of education from National University in Manila, but her irrepressible wanderlust and curiosity about the world left her craving more. In 1954, that curiosity—and the SS *Wilson*—brought her to the United States. After arriving in the United States, Macaria quickly invested herself in her new community. She obtained her second master's degree, in guidance counseling from John Carroll University and dedicated herself to giving voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless. Macaria helped couples mend

broken relationships and empowered them to make healthier decisions; she came to the aid of people battling abuse and addiction; and, in founding the Giving Tree, she provided solace for men and women in recovery.

Macaria's dedication to her fellow brothers and sisters has hardly waned; indeed the scope of her work has increased. With the Association of Philippine Physicians in Ohio, she now returns annually to her homeland to administer medical care to the underserved and rural populations of the Philippines.

Amazingly, in retirement Macaria still finds time to satisfy that wanderlust that brought her to northeast Ohio over 50 years ago. She makes an annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec, and can claim pilgrimages to Lourdes, Fatima, and the summit of Medjugorje among her accomplishments as well.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Macaria Mabini on her 90th birthday, and to celebrate a lifetime of pouring herself out for her fellow brothers and sisters. May her constant affirmation of the human spirit serve as inspiration for us all.

INTRODUCTION OF CREDIT CARD
ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY,
AND DISCLOSURE ACT
OF 2007 OR "CREDIT CARD ACT
OF 2007"

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am again introducing legislation to add some common-sense rules to the laws governing issuance of credit cards. The bill is co-sponsored by the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. CLEAVER. I am grateful for his assistance and support.

Americans benefit from the widespread availability of consumer credit, and their use of that credit has been important to our economy. But there are some warning signs that signal a need for some additional legislation.

Overall, during the last decade, total credit-card debt rose by about 70 per cent, and this clearly has an effect on consumers. Some polls have reported that about 70 percent of surveyed families said the quality of their lives is adversely affected by the extent of their debts, and young people are more worried about going deeply into debt than about a terrorist attack.

For many Americans, consumer credit is more than a convenience. It is something that many people need to use to pay for their everyday needs. For them, it is a necessity. And, of course, another word for credit is debt.

In a recent report on family finances, the Federal Reserve said that from the third quarter of 2001 to the same period in 2004, inflation-adjusted household debt increased by more than 26 percent. During the same pe-

riod, when incomes remained about the same, more families carried a credit-card balance and the average balance owed on a card rose nearly 16 percent, to \$5,100.

Some have argued that much of this debt was caused by recklessness and an erosion of financial responsibility. That was one of the main arguments advanced in support of the recently-passed legislation to revise the bankruptcy laws. But while there was something to that argument, it was not the whole story and it put too much emphasis on borrowers alone.

Instead of just focusing on borrowers, Congress should also do more to promote responsibility by those who provide the credit—and one place to start is with credit card companies.

For example, let's talk about interest rates. Credit is not free, and it should not be. But consumers should be treated fairly.

We have all seen print ads and commercials that advertise very low interest rates, but don't make clear that these rates can change, sometimes without warning, and that higher rates can apply even if a consumer gets a warning and then acts to cancel a card.

The bill would address that by requiring that a credit card company provide advance notice of any increase (unless the increase results from the expiration of an introductory rate for new accounts or a change in another rate to which the credit-card rate is indexed) and notice of the right to avoid paying the higher rate by canceling the card before the new rate takes effect. And it says that if the consumer does cancel the card in time, any remaining amounts owed on that card will be subject to the terms and conditions that applied at the time of cancellation.

Similarly, the bill would require that card holders be more fully informed about the relationship between the monthly minimum payments and the full amounts owing on their cards and what monthly payment would be required to eliminate the outstanding balance in 36 months if they do not their cards to make additional purchases.

Further, the bill would require that card holders be given clear notice of any fees, other charges, or increases in interest rates that would result from their making late payments.

For payments made by mail, card holders would have to be given a reasonable time for their payments to be received and would have to be told the date on which a mailed payment must be postmarked in order to avoid fees, charges, or increased interest rates.

And if a card issuer accepts payments made in person, a payment made at least one day before the due date would mean that no late-payment penalties would be in order.

The bill would also bar charging fees or other penalties because a card holder pays more than the monthly minimum or pays in full an existing account balance or because a card holder does not use the card during some particular period of time.

It would bar imposing a fee for a charge that would mean a card holder has gone over the total credit authorized on a card if the card

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

issuer has authorized that charge either in advance or at the time of a purchase.

And the bill would prohibit the use of "universal default" clauses—provisions that allow card issuers to impose a new, higher interest rate on a credit card account if there has been any change for the worse in the cardholder's credit score—even if the change is unrelated to the credit card account. Under "universal default," a card holder can be saddled with such an increased rate not only for being late on big-ticket items such as a car or a mortgage payment, but for something as relatively minor as being late (even once) on some other credit card, or a utility payment, carrying too much debt overall, having "too much" available credit and open trade lines, making "too many" credit inquiries, or getting a new mortgage or car loan.

The bill also would limit issuance of credit cards to people under the age of 18. People under that age applying for a credit card will need one of three things—the signature of a parent or guardian willing to take responsibility for the applicant's debts; information indicating that the applicant has some other means of repaying any debt; or a certification that the applicant has completed a credit counseling course by a qualified nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency. These requirements would apply to issuance of both regular credit cards and college "affinity cards."

And, finally, the bill increases the amounts people injured by violations of the rules can collect from card issuers.

Madam Speaker, this bill is similar to one I introduced in the 109th Congress. It would take some simple, common-sense steps to stop abusive practices, educate cardholders, and stiffen the penalties for violations. I think it deserves to be enacted.

For the benefit of our colleagues, I am attaching an outline of the bill's provisions.

OUTLINE OF THE BILL

Section One provides a short title and table of contents. The short title is "Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act of 2007 or 'Credit CARD Act of 2007'."

Section Two authorizes the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors to issue rules or publish model forms to implement the bill and the changes it makes in existing law

TITLE I

Title I amends the Truth in Lending Act regarding certain credit-card rates and fees.

Section 101 requires at least 15 days' notice of certain increases in interest rates and requires card holders to be told of their right to cancel an account before the increases take effect.

Section 102 imposes a freeze on interest-rate terms and fees applicable to accounts closed or cancelled before a scheduled rate increase.

Section 103 bars charging penalty fees for—(1) on-time payments; (2) either full payment of a balance owed or a payment larger than the minimum required amount; or (3) non-use of a card for any particular period of time.

Section 104 bars imposing fees for a purchase that exceeds a credit card's limit if the lender approves the charge in advance or at the time the card holder makes the purchase.

Section 105 bars "universal default," meaning the practice of imposing a higher interest rate on a credit card because of a change in a cardholder's credit score even if that change is unrelated to the credit card account.

TITLE II

Title II amends the Truth in Lending Act's provisions regarding disclosures to card holders.

Section 201 specifies information that must be provided regarding outstanding balances, required monthly minimum payments, grace periods for avoiding additional charges, and the monthly payments needed to pay off the balance in 36 months.

Section 202 requires that card holders be told the date by which mailed payments must be postmarked to avoid late fees, whether (and by how much) interest rates will be increased because of one or more late payments, whether (and if so, where) a payment can be made in person and when it must be made to avoid late fees (which must be no sooner than one business day before the payment is due).

TITLE III

Title III adds provisions to the Truth in Lending Act dealing with issuing credit cards to people under age 18 and amends the Act's provisions regarding penalties.

Section 301 requires that a credit card can be issued to someone under 18 only if the application includes either (1) the signature of a parent, legal guardian, spouse, or other person willing and able to be jointly liable for amounts charged on the card before the card holder becomes 18; or (2) financial information showing the applicant has enough independent means to be able to repay amounts charged on the card; or (3) proof that the applicant has completed a credit-counseling course by a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency meeting certain specified requirements.

Section 302 allows borrowers injured by violations of credit-card rules to collect increased amounts from card issuers. Current law says they can recover at least \$200 but no more than \$2,000. This section would increase that to at least \$500 or twice the amount of an improper finance charge (whichever is higher), with an overall limit of \$5,000 for isolated violations or appropriately higher amounts for established patterns or practices of violations.

Section 303 makes the rules specified in section 301 for regular credit cards apply as well to college "affinity cards" (a card with the logo or name of an institution of higher education in addition to that of the lender) issued to someone under age 18.

HONORING THE FAIR OAKS VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE COMPANY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, FOVFR, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Since its inception in 1957, FOVFR has achieved great success. Working alongside career personnel, the company has provided high quality fire, medical, emergency, and support services.

In my experiences with the company, I have seen its unwavering dedication to the Fairfax County community as well as its volunteers' strong values of unity, performance and personalized delivery.

While FOVFR has admirably served the Fairfax County community for 50 years, their efforts in 2006 were especially notable. During

the past year, volunteers spent 9,613 hours actively responding to emergency situations. Volunteer stand-by units supported the Marine Corps Marathon, the Annual National Down Syndrome Society's Buddy Walk, various high school band competitions and more.

Company statistics show a growing need for FOVFR's excellent services. Response levels for basic life support, canteen and command level services all were elevated last year, in certain cases by as much as 30 percent. I am confident that FOVFR will continue to rise to the occasion to meet the needs of their local community in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fair Oaks Fire and Rescue Company. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens and congratulate them on their 50th anniversary.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY STATEMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, On March 8, men and women around the world celebrated International Women's Day. Women have certainly made enormous strides but as we celebrate the recent successes of women in leadership here in the United States and abroad, we must not forget the many women and girls who are struggling to assert their human rights.

The reality is that women and girls continue to suffer from discrimination and violence and face enormous obstacles in their ability to succeed in any arena. The reality is that women are still not equal to men.

Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours and produce half of the world's food, yet earn only 1 percent of the world's income, and own less than 1 percent of the world's property.

Harmful traditional practices in many nations, such as dowry murder, honor killings and female genital mutilation continue without signs of abatement. An estimated five thousand women are murdered by family members each year and 2 million girls and women a year are at risk of female genital mutilation.

Trafficking has become a worldwide crisis which involves between 1 and 2 million women and children each year.

While many young women are taking advantage of increased opportunities and graduating from higher education in record numbers, there are many girls around the world whose choices are severely restricted because of their gender. Girls in various countries face severe violence, forced early marriage, and dangerous childbirth.

Early marriage almost always ends formal educational opportunities for girls and it is estimated that in the next decade, 100 million girls will be married before the age of 18. In Africa, more than half of girls do not complete primary school education. Due to early childbirth and poor maternal healthcare, there are

approximately 100,000 new cases of obstetric fistula among young women every year.

Women around the world look to the United States for leadership and assistance in advancing women's rights in their communities. We should be doing more to help them. In recognition of this need, I plan to reintroduce the International Women's Freedom Act, which is modeled after the successful International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA). IRFA established the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, which over the past 7 years, has drawn attention to the importance of protecting religious freedom around the world. The Commission's annual report and recommendations has had an impact on the protection of human rights around the world, with many of the Commission's recommendations being taken up by the President, the Congress, and the State Department.

The International Women's Freedom Act will, like IRFA, establish an office in the State Department and a U.S. Commission, which will focus on International Women's Rights. The Commission will draft an annual report on violations of women's human rights abroad and the legislation will force the U.S. to consider these violations when determining foreign policy.

There are many women who we salute on International Women's Day for breaking barriers. But let us also acknowledge the women who face hurdles which seem insurmountable. Those women who live in desperate poverty, who don't have basic health care, and who fear violence from their own family members are the women we need to think about today.

As a superpower, as a country of compassionate concerned citizens, as human beings; let's commit ourselves to doing something about the state of the world's most vulnerable women as we celebrate International Women's Day.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEL NORTE COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the County of Del Norte, the very northwest corner of the 1st Congressional District and the State of California.

Del Norte County features an extraordinary landscape that includes majestic redwoods and spectacular coastline. It is home to Redwood National and State Parks, the sparkling waters of the wild and scenic Smith River and the Smith River National Recreation Area. The residents are extraordinary and rugged individuals, who work hard and who value the very special place in which they live.

The county was created by the California Legislature in 1857, which transformed a portion of former Klamath County, California, into a new political entity known as Del Norte County.

The Yurok and Tolowa peoples have called the region home for thousands of years and continue to play a vital role in the life of Del Norte County. Their skills in woodworking and

basketry were exceptional and form the basis of a thriving cultural and artistic community.

The first timber mill was brought by ship to Del Norte County in 1853, and over the next 100 plus years produced lumber that was used to build the state and realize the dreams of all Californians. The rich ocean environment has created a dynamic fishing industry and the mild climate and fertile fields of the Smith River plain grow the Nation's supply of Easter lilies. The county is blessed with two historic lighthouses, Battery Point and Point St. George. The county seat of Crescent City has the distinction of being the only city in the continental United States to be struck by a tsunami wave, on March 28, 1964. Despite the destruction of over 150 businesses, the hearty character of local residents was on display during the rapid reconstruction of the town, earning the name, "Comeback Town USA".

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the County of Del Norte on the occasion of their 150th anniversary, and congratulate the residents of Del Norte County on all that they have achieved.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NILA SPEER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Nila Speer, a member of a pioneering Las Vegas family, who passed away on February 19, 2007 at the age of 87.

Throughout her 87 years, Mrs. Speer was a dedicated member of the community and witnessed the City of Las Vegas develop into a major metropolitan area. Her civic commitment was evident in the many community organizations in which she was involved. Among the many organizations Nila was involved in were the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, of which she was a charter member, and the Mesquite Club.

Nila influenced the lives of countless young girls as director of the local Girl Scout Council and as PTA President of Mayfair Elementary School, Crestwood Elementary School and John C. Fremont Junior High School. As a politically active member of the community, Nila campaigned for numerous candidates and was most proud of her efforts for former Governor and U.S. Senator Richard Bryan. In addition to her civic work, Nila was also a devoted Sunday school teacher at the First Methodist Church.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of Nila Speer. Her dedication to the community was commendable and the Las Vegas community will miss this significant resident.

IN RECOGNITION OF DETECTIVE JAMES METZLER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James Metzler, a devoted police officer for the Cleveland Police Depart-

ment for 25 years. Mr. Metzler is an exemplar for this community in his efforts to make Cleveland a safer and more vibrant city.

Mr. Metzler was appointed to the Cleveland Police Department on June 15, 1981. After graduating from the police academy, Mr. Metzler was assigned to Basic Patrol in the 4th District. Detective Metzler's commitment to his community shone through in his work, as he ascended the ranks. He later joined the First District Basic Patrol and eventually the First District Detective Bureau, before being dispatched to the Homicide Unit.

Police officers have the awesome responsibility of maintaining peace and order within the community. On a daily basis, they have to display courage and just decision-making. Throughout his career, Detective Metzler embraced this responsibility. He led by example and defined what it meant to wear a badge. Detective Metzler personified integrity, hard work, and dedication.

For 25 years, Detective Metzler served Cleveland with distinction, with unyielding pride, and with an abiding concern for the welfare of our community. In an age that has seen the disintegration of the community, Detective Metzler's unwavering commitment to the fabric of Cleveland has left us safer, healthier, and better equipped to face our challenges.

Madame Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring a true American hero, Detective James Metzler, and in celebrating his life of serving others and striving to make Cleveland a better place. We all owe a debt of gratitude to James Metzler.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL LANDS RESTORATION, ENHANCEMENT, PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND INFORMATION RESOURCES ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to provide additional resources for use by the Federal land-managing agencies to restore lands damaged as a result of improper activities and to promote public education about the use of the Federal lands. My Colorado colleague, Representative TANCREDI, is again cosponsoring the legislation. I greatly appreciate his support.

The bill is based on one part of a bill introduced by Representative TANCREDI that I cosponsored in the 108th and 109th Congresses. Our purpose is to improve the ability of the land-managing agencies—the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Interior Department as well as the Forest Service in the Agriculture Department—to adequately enforce the rules that apply to uses of the lands they manage.

In the 108th Congress, Mr. TANCREDI and I worked with the Resources Committee's Chairman, Ranking Member, and other Members, to develop a substitute that included a number of improvements in the bill. The Resources Committee approved that substitute, which included provisions similar to those in the bill I am introducing today. However, after the Resources Committee completed its work,

the measure was reviewed by the Judiciary Committee, which made further changes before the bill went to the House floor.

The most significant change was deletion of the provisions of the bill that allowed the agencies to retain fines paid for violations of land-use regulations and to use those funds for repairing damages to the lands and for public education. I regretted that change because in addition to more adequate authority to enforce regulations, the land-managing agencies need more resources—more money and more people—if we want them to do a better job.

The House passed the bill as revised by the Judiciary Committee, but the 108th Congress adjourned before the Senate could complete action on it. Accordingly, in the 109th Congress Mr. TANCREDU reintroduced the House-passed bill and I cosponsored it, and I introduced a separate bill which he cosponsored. We are repeating that pattern of cooperation today.

The Tancredo-Udall bill of the 108th Congress would have allowed the land-managing agencies to use money from fines to help pay for some of the restoration work caused by violations of regulations and for public education.

The bill I am introducing today is similar. It would allow agencies to use money collected as fines to be used for repairing damage caused by the actions that lead to the fines or by similar actions. It would also allow them to use the money to increase public awareness of regulations and other requirements regarding use of Federal lands. And it provides that any of the money not needed for those purposes would be credited to the Crime Victims Fund in the Treasury.

Madam Speaker, this is a modest bill but an important one. I think it deserves the support of our colleagues and I will do all I can to achieve its enactment into law.

HONORING SALLY B. ORMSBY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations 2006 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year, Sally B. Ormsby.

For the past 40 years Sally B. Ormsby has been a dedicated community activist fighting on behalf of her neighbors in Mantua and the residents of Fairfax County, Virginia. Her community activism started through focused pursuits on parent-teacher associations and garden clubs, but blossomed into larger roles that ultimately changed the face of the community in which she lived.

Most notably, in 1990, when a local underground oil spill rocked the foundation and stability of her local Mantua community, she rallied her neighbors, calmed fears and sought logical and appropriate remedies to the issues at hand. In the midst of the community outrage that followed concerning associated health risks and collapsing home values, Sally's steady hand played a key role in addressing the containment, control, and remediation of the affected grounds. This highlights just one of her many crowning achievements where her hard work and dedication overcame immense obstacles for the betterment of Fairfax County.

Over the years she has served as president of the Federation of Fairfax County Citizens Associations, chair of the Providence District Council of Civic Associations, president of the Woodson High School PTA, appointee to the Committee on Revenue Expenditures, a member of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters and president of the Mantua Civic Association, to name a few.

Sally has always been able and willing to step forward when duty called, to work toward the positive resolution of pressing local issues. Her leadership is most evident in the face of crisis where her ethos of service acts as a beacon guiding her fellow citizens towards their collective end goal.

While compiling this impressive legacy of service, Sally has been a dedicated wife to her husband, Dr. W. Clayton Ormsby, and loving mother to her two children, Alison and Tyler.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Sally on her impressive record of service to Fairfax County. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Sally B. Ormsby, the 2006 Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations Citizen of the Year.

REINTRODUCTION OF "VOTERS' RIGHT TO KNOW ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, I, along with Representative PETRI (R-WI), reintroduce legislation to subject operators of push polls or phone banks to the same disclosure requirements as other types of political communication. It will not ban push polls or phone banking—it will simply create a level playing field for all types of political communication. Under this bill, any person conducting these types of calls would be required to disclose to each recipient of a call the identity of the organization paying for the call. In addition, the bill would require that campaigns and other organizations that conduct advocacy phone calls report to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) the number of households they have contacted and the script they used in making the calls. The bill would not interfere with legitimate polling, conducted either by candidates or independent organizations, as it would only apply to phone banks in which more than 1,500 households are contacted within the 25 days preceding a federal election.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF LEO T. MCCARTHY AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my deep sympathies to the family of the honorable Leo T. McCarthy, including his loving wife, Jackie Lee Burke, his four wonderful children, Sharon,

Conna, Adam and Niall, and his 11 grandchildren.

Leo McCarthy's passing is a great loss for the state of California. He was a champion of equality and social justice. He was a model of public service, both as a legislator and a citizen.

Leo McCarthy dedicated his life to improving the lives of his fellow Californians.

In the California State Assembly, Leo McCarthy reformed the institution by bringing increased openness and accountability to the legislative process.

As a three-term Lieutenant Governor, Leo McCarthy took on some of our state's most challenging social issues. He implemented programs that empowered our state's impoverished and disenfranchised citizens and aided those who could not stand for themselves. These programs have greatly increased the quality of life in California, and each day numerous Californians benefit from his wisdom and leadership.

Leo McCarthy was also a champion of the environment. He led the enactment of the California Coastal Act, which has helped conserve California's precious coastal resources and further protect our coast from offshore drilling.

Leo McCarthy was also a model politician. I had a great deal of respect for the honesty and fairness he brought to the political process. I admired how he instilled the values of public service and social justice into future generations. The Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good at the University of San Francisco is an example of how his legacy will benefit our state for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, Leo McCarthy's contributions to our state are immeasurable. He was a friend to me and all of California, and his presence will be missed even as his legacy endures.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PASTOR NATHANIEL WHITNEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Pastor Nathaniel Whitney.

Pastor Whitney was born in Tallulah, Louisiana on June 23, 1926 and was the twelfth of fourteen children. In 1944, at the age of 18, Nathaniel enlisted in the United States Army where he nobly served his country in both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters. Following 30 months of service in the armed forces, Nathaniel was honorably discharged.

In 1951, Nathaniel relocated to Las Vegas with his wife Carolyn. After arriving in Las Vegas, Nathaniel became involved with the Carver Baptist Church until 1965 when he became pastor of the Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church. In addition to dedicating himself to his church, Nathaniel was very involved in a number of community and outreach organizations; such as, the National Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, the Pride of the West District

Association, the Ministers Alliance, and the local chapter of the NAACP.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and memory of Pastor Nathaniel Whitney. His dedication to both the Las Vegas and Baptist community is commendable and should serve as an example to us all. Pastor Whitney will be deeply missed by the countless lives he touched.

IN RECOGNITION OF DETECTIVE JAMES GAJOWSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a role model who committed 27 years to the Cleveland Police Department, James Gajowski, and to recognize his efforts toward making Cleveland a safer place.

Mr. Gajowski was appointed to the Cleveland Police Department on July 29, 1979. After graduating from the police academy, Mr. Gajowski's first beat was the Third District Basic Patrol. As his career progressed, he served in the Third District Detective Bureau as well as the Third District Strike Force Unit. Eventually Detective Gajowski ascended to the Homicide Unit, in which he served with distinction and dedication.

One of duties of police officers is to place others' well being before their own. They are the first to respond in times of peril, and as a community we ask them to risk their lives continually in order to preserve the peace and safety of our own. For 27 years, Detective Gajowski did just that, standing guard in our great city so that we might sleep well, that we might live in peace.

Although police officers are an indispensable component to living in a civil society, they frequently go underappreciated and overlooked. Detective Gajowski served with distinction and served with pride, but never demanded attention or recognition. The safety and well being of Cleveland was reward enough.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring James Gajowski for his life long commitment to law enforcement and public service, and giving him the recognition he so richly deserves. Through his commitment to justice, Mr. Gajowski set a shining example for all to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION LEGISLATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to authorize the Interior Department to participate in the implementation of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species in the Central and Lower Platte River Basin.

Its purpose is to continue a cooperative effort involving the Federal Government and the

States of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming (and other entities and groups) aimed at recovery of endangered species in ways that will not involve the creation of Federal water rights or requiring the grant of water rights to Federal entities. Information about the background of the legislation and the program follows:

BILL TO AUTHORIZE PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Since 1997, the States of Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming have worked with water users, conservation groups and the Interior Department to develop way to allow continued water use and development along the Platte River to comply with the Endangered Species Act.

In late 2006 the 3 States and the Interior Department signed the final agreement for a basin-wide Recovery Program to benefit three endangered species (interior least tern, whooping crane, and pallid sturgeon) and one threatened species (piping plover) referred to as the "target species." The Federal government is to pay half the cost—and the bill would authorize appropriation of those federal funds. The total authorization would be \$157.14 million plus any needed inflation adjustments.

RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Program is designed to secure defined benefits for the target species and their associated habitats while also providing ESA compliance for existing and certain new water-related activities in the Platte River basin. It is to be incremental, with the First Increment coming over the next 13 years. It would be implemented by a Governance Committee with membership including representatives of the three states, the Interior Department, water users, and environmental groups.

While the Program is designed to provide ESA compliance for existing and certain new water related activities throughout the Platte River basin upstream of the confluence of the Platte and the Loup Rivers (in Nebraska), the land acquisition and management for the target bird species will occur in the central Platte River region (Lexington to Chapman, Nebraska), and Program water activities would be designed to provide benefits for the target bird species in the central Platte River region and for the pallid sturgeon in the lower Platte River region (below the confluence with the Elkhorn River).

ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

The Program has three main elements: (1) increasing stream flows in the central Platte River during relevant time periods through retiming and water conservation/supply projects; (2) enhancing, restoring and protecting habitat lands for the target bird species; and (3) accommodating certain new water related activities. It will achieve these results through an adaptive management approach employing scientific monitoring and research to evaluate the management actions and species habitat needs. These elements will be implemented according to underlying principles that require interests in land to be acquired only from willing participants and avoid increasing tax burdens to local citizens by paying taxes or their equivalent on Program lands. Program lands will be held by a land holding entity (rather than by the federal or state governments) and will be managed under a "good neighbor" policy.

WATER

The Program's long-term objective for water is to provide sufficient water to and through the central Platte River habitat area to assist in improving and maintaining habitat for the target species using incentive based water projects. During the First Incre-

ment (13 years) the Program's objective is to retine and improve flows in the central Platte River to reduce shortages to target flows by an average of 130,000 to 150,000 acre-feet per year at Grand Island.

LAND

During the First Increment, the Program's objective is to protect, restore, and maintain 10,000 acres of habitat. The Program's long-term objective for land is to acquire land interests, restore where appropriate, and maintain and manage approximately 29,000 acres of suitable habitat along the central Platte River between Lexington and Chapman, Nebraska. Land acquired during the Program's First Increment will be credited to this long-term objective as will certain lands that meet criteria established by the Governance Committee but are managed by other entities such as environmental organizations or utility and irrigation districts.

FUTURE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND NEW DEPLETIONS

One Program purpose is to mitigate the adverse impacts of certain new water related activities through the implementation of state and federal depletions plans. This will allow continued growth and water development to occur in the Platte River basin along with improving conditions for the target species.

HONORING LEE A. RAU

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lee A. Rau, recipient of the 2006 Citation of Merit by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association.

A resident of Reston, Virginia, since the 1960s, Mr. Rau has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of Fairfax County residents. Possessing a true passion for the less fortunate, Mr. Rau has addressed the growing problem of housing affordability in Northern Virginia by offering his legal expertise to a variety of community projects.

Throughout his career as a notable public servant, Mr. Rau has been involved with myriad civic organizations including Reston Association, Lake Anne Village Center Revitalization Project, Reston Interfaith, Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Greater Reston Arts Council, and the High Rise Affordability Panel established by Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins. Through this work, Mr. Rau is able to assist Fairfax County in meeting affordable housing goals: increasing the supply, encouraging their provision, conserving stable neighborhoods and revitalizing older neighborhoods.

While actively engaged in civic activity throughout Fairfax County, Mr. Rau has also served on an extensive list of professional associations such as the American Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, United States Chamber of Commerce Council on Antitrust Policy, D.C. Bar Energy Study Group, and the Constitutional and Administrative Law Advisory Committee of the National Chamber Litigation Center, Inc.

Mr. Rau was named the 1990 Restonian of the Year; was awarded the Best of Reston Award in 1996, and is more than deserving of this Citation of Merit. His commitment to his

community and to making the county a better place to live for all of its residents is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I applaud Lee Rau for his public service and receipt of the Citation of Merit by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association. I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BONNEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Susan Bonney for her exceptional work at William B's Steakhouse formerly located in the Stardust.

Susan Bonney had worked for the Stardust for over 7 years. Over the course of her career with Boyd Gaming she catered to the needs of the high-end clientele at William B's until the close of this legendary property on November 1, 2006. Following the closure of William B's, Susan decided to stay with the Boyd Gaming Corp., because of its family-like style of business. Susan subsequently became the restaurant manager for the Orleans Hotel and Casino, continuing her distinguished career to providing great service and respect to the guests of the hotel while making their time in Las Vegas memorable. Susan has also recently been recognized by Casino Magazine for her many years of exceptional service.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Susan Bonney. Her professional successes and exemplary record of service are commendable. I applaud Susan for her leadership and wish her continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD J. WILD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard J. Wild upon his retirement as athletic director of Saint Ignatius of Antioch School, and to celebrate over 30 years of service to the Church as well as the surrounding community.

Rich began his avocation in the 1970s as an engaged parent, hoping to be more involved in the development of his children. As his children grew and moved on, Rich recognized the importance of the athletic program to the St. Ignatius parish as well as the community as a whole. In 1979, Rich agreed to become the Activities and Athletic Director; he quickly set out to revitalize the program and ensure that all youth who wanted to participate in sports had a place to go.

The early years of Rich's tenure were challenging. As the parish community shrunk and enrollment at the school shrunk, St. Ignatius faced the dim proposition of cutting back programming or eliminating whole sports. However, Rich refused to accept the idea that limiting access to athletics was the only course of

action. Instead, Rich developed an innovative athletic program that adapted to the changing parish environment and expanded its reach to the whole community. As a result, the St. Ignatius athletic program thrived while serving more youth.

Today, the St. Ignatius of Antioch parish athletic program serves 345 youth from over fifty schools. Rich Wild has taken a parish-based program and, with three decades worth of compassion, commitment, and unfailing determination, has turned it into a community institution.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Rich Wild on the occasion of his retirement, and in celebrating his dedication to St. Ignatius of Antioch parish. As Rich enters into the next phase of his life accompanied by his loving wife Georgia, three children and seven grandchildren, the fruits of his labor will be enjoyed for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL R. SMITH, SR.

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about Daniel R. "Dan" Smith, Sr., a truly remarkable man who will be celebrating his 75th birthday this Sunday, March 11.

Born in Winsted, CT, on March 11, 1932, Dan is one of a few surviving African-American children of a slave. His father, Abram Smith, was born in 1863. Age 70 when Dan was born, he died when Dan was 6. Dan's mother, Clara Wheeler Smith, was a young bride. A domestic worker, she raised her 8 children plus other foster children.

Dan graduated from Gilbert High School in Winsted, Connecticut. He entered the U.S. Army and served in Korea as a medic, operating room technician, in the Korean War. He also was trained as a water safety instructor and after returning home from Korea, he performed heroic actions during the 1955 Winsted flood, diving into a raging river and saving a man's life.

Dan attended Springfield College, in Massachusetts, where he majored in general studies with minors in psychology and sociology. He was elected student body president and graduated in 1960.

During the 1960s he had a broad range of professional experiences. Building on his education and experiences as a medic in the Army, he served as a social worker at Norwich State Hospital, a 3,000 bed psychiatric hospital in Connecticut, and at the Seaside Regional Center for the mentally retarded in Waterford, Connecticut.

One of Dan's many loves is animals, especially dogs. During high school he had worked for a veterinarian and learned to be a dog trainer. He took additional pre-med courses and was accepted into the Veterinary School of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

This was during the height of the Civil Rights movement, however, and the pull of public service was strong. Dan left his studies to become executive director of an anti-poverty program launched by Sargent Shriver in Lowndes County, Alabama, one of the Civil Rights' "hot beds." The church in which his

program was housed was burned by arsonists, but he had carefully saved all his documentation, and was able to start again almost immediately. He participated in many Civil Rights activities and nearly lost his life at the hands of the KKK. He was with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the march from Selma to Montgomery.

As a result of his excellent administration of the anti-poverty program, Mr. Smith was given the opportunity to enter the Federal Government at the national office of VISTA in Washington, DC. He later moved to the Office of Health Affairs in the Office of Economic Opportunity, OEO.

While at OEO he served as Assistant Chief of Program Development, and developed a national program of Neighborhood Health Centers, NHCs, that provided ambulatory health care for low income communities throughout the United States, using a medical team approach. He was responsible for developing NHCs in Bedford Stuyvesant, San Francisco's Chinatown, and St. Louis, Missouri. He also established and served as Chief of OEO's Consumer Affairs office, where he designed a pilot multi-dimensional training program.

In 1972, Dan became the National Director and Chief of the Area Health Education Program (AHEC), a medical health education program that he designed and implemented at the National Institute of Health. He worked with medical schools throughout the United States to provide more primary care and family practice physicians and related health professionals. At \$165 million annually, it became the largest social contract program in the nation. One of the finest of these programs continues today at the University of Colorado's School of Medicine. Acknowledged as the "father" of AHEC, Dan received a distinguished service award for his outstanding management of the program.

During the 1980s Dan was awarded an IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement) position at Georgetown University Medical School as a Research Associate, where he was involved in research and teaching. He returned to the Federal Government as Director of Bilateral and Sub-Saharan African Programs in the Office of International Health and was responsible for developing Emergency Medical Services programs in Lebanon, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Because of his expertise in administering medical programs, in 1986 the White House officially requested his assistance with the Republic of South Africa to develop a program similar to AHEC. He was subsequently invited by Archbishop Desmond Tutu to attend his Capetown installation as the Episcopal Bishop of South Africa.

Dan later served as Special Projects Manager in the Administrator's Office of the Department of Health and Human Services. He retired from the Federal Government in 1994.

Still working, Dan has established and owns an import/export company, Takoma Enterprises LLC, for which he serves as president and CEO. Active in community and religious organizations, he served on the board of trustees of Springfield College and senior warden of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bethesda, MD. An usher at the Washington National Cathedral, Dan served as head usher at the Cathedral, where he has escorted Presidents and other dignitaries at special services, including

the memorial service following the events of September 11, 2001.

Dan has four surviving siblings who still reside in Connecticut: His brother, A. Wilson "Abe" Smith, and sisters Marion Hanson, Jenny Brown and Henrietta Reed. He has two adult children from a previous marriage. His daughter April is married to a South African, Andrew Motaung. Both are teachers with advanced degrees. They have a 3½-year-old child, Tselane, and live in Columbia, MD. His son, Daniel Robert Smith, Jr., a graduate of Syracuse University, is an actor who resides in New York City, stage name Robert Mauzell.

In 2002 Dan met Loretta Neumann, a neighbor. It should be noted that Loretta worked for me as a legislative assistant before she retired in 2001 and, during the 1970s and 1980s, she also worked for the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee when it was chaired by my father, Morris K. Udall, and for Representative John F. Seiberling of Ohio, who chaired the Committee's Public Lands and National Parks Subcommittee.

Last but not least, Dan and Loretta were married on October 28, 2006, at the Washington National Cathedral. They reside in the Takoma neighborhood of Washington, DC, and from all reports are truly living happily ever after.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RANDALL JENSEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Randall Jensen, a recent recipient of the Boy Scouts of America's Silver Beaver Award.

Randall, an optometrist who performs Kindergarten eye screenings in the Moapa Valley school system, has been actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America since he was a child. In 1972, he earned the organization's highest Scout achievement when he was made an Eagle Scout. After enjoying the benefits of participating in the Boy Scouts, Randall returned to the organization in 1978 to work as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Today, Randall serves as chairman for the Anasazi District of the Las Vegas Area Council of Boy Scouts. Since volunteering with the Boy Scouts, his work as a Scout leader has driven him to assist youth who struggle fitting in with peer and social groups.

On February 15, 2007, Mr. Jensen was awarded with the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of his distinguished service to the organization. This award has been awarded since 1931 and represents the great work Randall has done with the Boy Scouts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Randall Jensen. His dedication to the community through his work with the Boy Scouts is commendable and I congratulate him on being recognized with the Silver Beaver Award.

TRIBUTE TO HEDY M. RATNER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add my voice in honoring Hedy M. Ratner, who will be recognized in Chicago as a "Women Who Dared" on March 14, 2007 by the Jewish Women's Foundation, Women's Division of the Jewish United Fund, and the Jewish Women's Archive. I congratulate those organizations for choosing to celebrate Women's History Month by hearing the stories of three fabulous local Jewish women—Judith Panko Reis, the founding Director of the Women With Disabilities Center; Amy Rubin of Jewish Women International; and Hedy Ratner.

My dear friend Hedy Ratner is a force of nature. When she swirls into a room—beautiful, feminine, and powerful—everyone knows that a woman of substance has arrived. A feminist through and through, a fighter for social justice, Hedy has worked for the advancement of women all of her adult life.

In 1986, along with her friend Carol Dougal, Hedy founded the first and now the largest Women's Business Development Center in the United States. "When we started the Center," said Hedy, "it was an extension of our frustration that women still were not reaching parity in the marketplace."

As of today, the Center has served tens of thousands of women; facilitated tens of millions of dollars in loans; impacted policies at the Federal, State and local levels; and helped certify countless companies as Women's Business Enterprises. Her straightforward philosophy is summed up when she says, "It's good business to do business with women."

Hedy Ratner was appointed by President Clinton to the National Women's Business Council. She helped found and then was appointed by two Illinois Governors to the Illinois Women's Business Ownership Council and the Governor's Commission of the Status of Women in Illinois. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley appointed Hedy as Co-Chair of the Women's Health Task Force. She is also a board member of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and The Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau, and a founding member of the Coalition for Equal Opportunity and the Alliance of Minority and Female Contractors Association.

All of the prestigious appointments and major accomplishments only hint at the dynamic and inspiring person Hedy Ratner is. Her legions of friends, co-workers and admirers love her enthusiasm, her humor and her generous spirit. She is unstinting in her efforts to encourage and help those around her to be the best that they can be and to achieve their own aspirations.

Hedy Ratner has served as a role model for untold numbers of women who seek to make their mark in business, politics, and the professions. Perhaps it is, in part, because Hedy had her own role model—her mother. About her mother she said, "She was an immigrant woman, came from poverty, didn't have an opportunity to be really well educated. [She] was a business owner, but she was informally educated. She was an entrepreneur and she was always committed to me, and women in gen-

eral, being independent." Her mother said, "That's the most important thing you can do: depend on yourself."

Hedy's Jewish upbringing and pride have contributed mightily to her strength of character, her moral center and her determination to succeed. I had the real pleasure to attend her Bat Mitzvah not too many years ago. Hedy, your mother would be very proud of you for being singled out as outstanding Jewish woman by such prestigious Jewish women's organizations, but she wouldn't have been surprised that you are officially a "Woman Who Dared."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 700, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES WATER SUPPLY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my full support for alternative water supply initiatives and my opposition to the bill before us. We have an existing program that is able to provide affordable loans to communities to fund such projects—the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF).

The bill before us is fiscally irresponsible. It takes what was a pilot program enacted several years ago and which was never funded and turns it into a new, permanent \$125 million federal grant program with a new bureaucracy to implement it.

We do not need this program. The existing SRF gives taxpayers a much bigger bang for their buck. By establishing a new, permanent grant program, today's bill will divert dollars from the SRF leaving fewer dollars for the SRF to support a broader spectrum of water projects.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) FOR AMERICA ACT"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act." This much-needed legislation eliminates the controversial visa lottery program, through which 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States based on pure luck. The visa lottery program threatens national security, results in the unfair administration of our Nation's immigration laws, and encourages a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Because winners of the visa lottery are chosen at random, the visa lottery program presents a serious national security threat. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident

status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

The State Department's Inspector General has even weighed in on the national security threat posed by the visa lottery program. During testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary in the 109th Congress, the Office of Inspector General stated that the Office "continues to believe that the diversity visa program contains significant risks to national security from hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists attempting to use the program for entry into the United States as permanent residents."

Even if improvements were made to the visa lottery program, nothing would prevent terrorist organizations or foreign intelligence agencies from planting members in the U.S. by having those members apply for the program. As long as those individuals do not have previous criminal backgrounds, these types of organized efforts would never be detected, even if significant background checks and counter-fraud measures were enacted within the program.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connections with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States' immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not expressly prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws. In addition, most family-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas, yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong message to those who wish to enter our great country and to the international community as a whole.

Furthermore, the visa lottery program is wrought with fraud. A report released by the Center for Immigration Studies states that it is commonplace for foreign nationals to apply for the lottery program multiple times using many different aliases. In addition, the visa lottery program has spawned a cottage industry featuring sponsors in the U.S. who falsely promise success to applicants in exchange for large sums of money. Ill-informed foreign nationals are willing to pay top dollar for the "guarantee" of lawful permanent resident status in the U.S.

The State Department's Office of Inspector General confirms these allegations of widespread fraud in its September 2003 report. Specifically, the report states that the visa lottery program is "subject to widespread abuse" and that "identity fraud is endemic, and fraudulent documents are commonplace." Furthermore, the report also reveals that the State Department found that 364,000 duplicate applications were detected in the 2003 visa lottery alone.

In addition, the visa lottery program is by its very nature discriminatory. The complex formula for assigning visas under the program arbitrarily disqualifies natives from countries that send more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. within a 5-year period, which excludes nationals from countries such as Mexico, Canada, China and others.

The visa lottery program represents what is wrong with our country's immigration system. My legislation would eliminate the visa lottery program. The removal of this controversial program will help ensure our Nation's security, make the administration of our immigration laws more consistent and fair, and help reduce immigration fraud and opportunism.

THE INWOOD HOUSE—NYC

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, recently I had the unique opportunity to attend an event in New York City with more than 650 people honoring a life giving operation for young women. In today's cold vast world it is very easy to feel isolated, alone, and forgotten especially if you are a pregnant teen or an expectant teen father. To many, Inwood House is a safe haven in their endless storm. The Inwood House offers housing, medical treatment, resources, and hope to today's otherwise lost teenagers.

The Inwood House was established as a Residence in 1830, to help pregnant girls in New York City rebuild their lives. The young girls were immigrants, alone, and some were exploited. And in those days single pregnant females were often just put in jail. The Inwood House became their savior by giving the girls a safe home, an encouraging community, and most importantly an education. With their newly acquired education the once outcasts of society were able to rejoin the working world with their employable skills. Since the early 1800's, the founders were vocal advocates for the lost youth. When the world wanted to send young unmarried pregnant teens to the penitentiary, the Inwood House stood up and fought for their freedom. They won Court approval to have the girls referred to the Inwood House, rather than being sent away only to be once again shunned by society. The founders believed that each girl was a gift and as a gift each had their own destiny, they simply needed someone to stand strong for them.

The Inwood House has continued its innovated vision. In the early 1900's, when the medical community was desperately trying to get the public aware of sexually transmitted diseases, the Inwood House tackled the issue head on. They conducted community outreach education on how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. While providing on-going family support services to unwed mothers, the founders helped fund the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. By accepting young women of all races and religions, the Inwood House defied the segregation of social services that was customary at the time.

Inwood House believes that the root of any solid society is a strong family. To enable young unwed mothers keep their babies, Inwood House raised private funds to create

Mother/Baby foster family homes while creating the first City-sponsored program. The program showed great success in achieving self-sufficiency for the young mothers as well as avoiding repeat out-of-wedlock births. Inwood founders also believed in holding everyone responsible for their actions, including male teens.

Teen Choice, created by Inwood House, was the first comprehensive school-based education and counseling program to include boys. By dealing with both sides of the teenage pregnancy epidemic, it allowed awareness to be brought into an educational environment. Being the first to recognize the young unwed father as a potential resource for both the unwed mother and their unborn child, Fathers Count was created. Fathers Count is an educational program aimed to teach young fathers how to manage their parental responsibilities. When children have strong male role models in their lives, the cycle of abandonment is broken, leading both the children and the parents to lead a healthier life.

It was my pleasure, along with Governor Tom Ridge and others, to honor and hear positive successes for this outstanding program, its hard working staff, and the board members of the Inwood House. By providing supportive 24-hour care, support and guidance, including pre-natal care, education, parenting and life skills training, Inwood House is able to give hope for a better life. Wonderful board members such as Barbara Abadi and Linda Lausell Bryant, to just name a few, help to ensure that even today the Residence cares for homeless, pregnant teens in foster care, and continues to ensure that the Inwood House is internationally recognized as a leader and innovator in youth development, teen pregnancy prevention, and family support. Serving over 8,000 young people, Inwood House is able to be a beacon for the lost. It is my pleasure to honor and support such a life giving operation, and wish it continued success as it reaches and addresses the desperate needs of society's forgotten children.

And that is just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING DONALD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald Elementary School, located in Flower Mound, Texas, for being awarded the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award.

The National Blue Ribbon Award is presented to schools that reflect the goals of our Nation's highest education standards. The program requires schools to meet one of two assessment criteria. It recognizes schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who dramatically improve student performance in accordance with state assessment system. It also rewards schools that score in the top 10 percent on state assessments. Donald Elementary's scores on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test have consistently exceeded the national average in all subjects.

Donald Elementary School was built in 1989. Although relatively new, the school has made a significant impact on the local community and has unique attributes including a P.E.P. Squad (Parents as Educational Partners Volunteer Program) as well as a publishing company, "Dolphin Tales," to assist students in taking their writing to the complete published stage. Donald Elementary received Gold Performance Acknowledgments from the Texas Education Agency in the 2004–2005 school year for attendance and was commended for its work in the fields of Reading/ELA, Mathematics and Science.

The National Blue Ribbon Award acknowledges the hard work of students, staff members, families, and the community in raising student proficiency and closing the achievement gap. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Principal Cheryl J. Close, the Lewisville Independent School District, and the community of Flower Mound. I also want to congratulate the fine students of Donald Elementary for this outstanding achievement.

I wish them the best of luck as they continue to strive for excellence. I am very proud and honored to represent them in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK AMARAL

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor a man who was a businessman, community leader and icon in Northern California, Mr. Frank Amaral. After a lifetime of dedication to his family and community, Frank passed away on March 5, 2007. He was 88 years old.

Frank Amaral was one of Nevada City's most successful real estate investors. Mr. Amaral displayed astute skills of negotiation and business savvy, many of which he honed earlier in his career in the lumber industry, working as managing partner of the Oregon Creek Lumber Company in Camptonville, California.

Frank Amaral was also one of Nevada County's early developers and helped transform Grass Valley and Nevada City from unknown destinations to the wonderful communities they are today. However, Frank's success as an adult contrasted with his humble roots.

Born on June 19, 1918, in Orland, California, he was the youngest of four children. Frank's parents, Cardoza Amaral and Rosa Julia Bettencourt Amaral, were Portuguese immigrants from the Azores Islands. Frank lost his father when he was 6.

As a 13-year-old farm laborer who supported his family during the Depression, Frank hated being poor and worked diligently to better his social status.

A rough upbringing did not deter Frank from a long list of impressive life achievements. Mr. Amaral bought the Oregon Creek Lumber Company in 1958 and started buying timberland all throughout Northern California, Oregon and Idaho. At the height of his career in the lumber business, he owned over 100,000 acres of timberland, according to a recent publication.

He also bought local properties during the 1950s. Frank's holdings included property at Jackson Meadows, Milton Reservoir, Lake Olympia, Brunswick sawmill, the Murchie Mine property, Deer Creek Park, Stonebridge and the North Star Mine, which he co-owned.

In 1966, he retired from the lumber business, developing the properties he owned and selling them off as parcels. He diversified his interests, buying farmland in Los Banos and commercial properties in Southern California.

Frank Amaral was also a thoughtful and civic-minded philanthropist who made great contributions to his community and region.

For example, the Nevada County Fairgrounds has seen the impact of Mr. Amaral's work in the community for years. The Amaral Family Festival Center was named in his honor after the family made a large donation for its renovation. But, for years before that, the Amarals donated land, money and time to many causes behind the scenes, proving to many their dedication to helping others.

The site of Nevada County's first Juvenile Hall and the land where the Madelyn Helling Library sits both were gifts from the Amarals.

Most importantly, Frank Amaral was devoted to his family and was committed to acts of charity. For years, Frank and LaVonne Amaral donated money anonymously to local organizations following their Catholic belief that charity should not be publicized.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, LaVonne, and his two children, Lance Amaral and Julia Amaral.

May he rest in peace.

COMMITTEE FUNDING RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague JOE BARTON, Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, in requesting the resources necessary to ensure the effective operations of this Committee over the next 2 years.

The budget we have submitted reflects the significant increase in workload for the Committee on Energy and Commerce, as well as the need to attract skilled staff members and provide our personnel with the tools required to perform their jobs. The requested sums are not merely desirable. They are necessary. The Committee has wide jurisdiction and each of its 6 subcommittees has a lengthy "to do" list.

One of our top priorities is developing a substantive, balanced, thorough record on climate change. Our comprehensive examination of climate change is already underway. To date, we have conducted 5 hearings on this issue and we expect to conduct 6 more this month. I am pleased to report that a variety of industry leaders and issue experts, including Vice President Gore, who will testify before the Committee on March 21, will continue to provide their insights to the Committee. We are confident that this focus on climate change will produce thoughtful, fair legislation.

Other priorities include addressing issues in energy policy, health care, consumer protection and privacy, environmental programs,

telecommunications, and a host of other legislative matters. We are also committed to fulfilling our oversight responsibilities. Already, the Committee has launched inquiries into nuclear security issues, food and drug safety, and the health care situation in New Orleans post-Katrina.

Since the 110th Congress convened in January, we have moved forward quickly on an exceedingly ambitious agenda that covers a wide range of topics of concern to Americans. To date, the Committee has held 19 hearings, in addition to its role in the "First 100 Hours"—during which this Committee contributed significantly to the Stem Cell Research bill, the prescription drug negotiation legislation, and the implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. In this month alone, the Committee has planned 28 hearings and 6 markups and meetings. We expect a combined total of 42 hearings and meetings before we reach the Spring District Work Period.

In light of this very heavy workload and considering the pressing importance of the issues facing the Committee, I ask that you fund our request for the 110th Congress and thank you for your support.

FIVE OUTSTANDING CITIZENS

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to honor five outstanding citizens of Bayonne for their contributions to preserving their Irish heritage, which have enriched and united our community and earned them the praise of their countrymen. They are all being honored at the 2007 Bayonne St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Mickey McCabe, Grand Marshall 2007, a Bayonne native, is a founding member of the Bayonne St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. As founder and president of McCabe Ambulance Service and the McCabe Institute of Emergency Preparedness, Mr. McCabe is well aware of the medical emergency needs of his community. Mr. McCabe serves in various state and county agencies including the New Jersey State EMS Homeland Security Task Force Planning Agency.

Virginia "Ginger" Boele Kemp, a member of Ireland's 32, is the President and owner of Four Season's Travel. A community activist, Ms. Kemp founded the Bayonne Hometown Fair. A member of the Rotary Club of Bayonne, Ms. Kemp was the club's first woman president. Ginger Kemp helped raise over \$30,000 as a member of the Bayonne Tsunami Relief Fund and over \$51,000 as co-chair of the Katrina Relief Fund.

Bridget Antczak, County Cork Association Aide, is a lifelong resident of Bayonne. The Environmental Consultant has a rich Irish heritage and is the granddaughter of John O'Connell, who was influential in the building of the County Corkmen's Club. Bridget has been a member of the St. Patrick's Parade Committee since 2004.

Sharon Nadrowsky, Irish American League Aide, serves as the representative to the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Mrs. Nadrowsky serves on the St. Mary's Star of the Sea Sports Committee. She continues to instill

in her children and her community the traditions of her grandparents, who hail from County Tipperary and County Kilkenny.

Mary O'Connell, born and raised in Bayonne, is past President of the County Donegal Association and remains an aide to the organization. Her mother Nora was born in County Mayo and her paternal grandfather from County Donegal. Mrs. O'Connell also served the patients of the prestigious Hoboken's St. Mary's Hospital for 10 years.

Please join me in honoring these proud members of the Irish Community of Bayonne. Their numerous contributions have enriched the lives of their neighbors, and their love of their heritage continues to preserve the Irish tradition for future generations of Irish-Americans in New Jersey and the United States.

FREEDOM FOR RENÉ MONTES DE OCA MARTIJA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about René Montes de Oca Martija, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Montes de Oca Martija, Secretary General of the Pro Human Rights Party in Cuba, is a peaceful pro-democracy and human rights activist who has courageously denounced the cruel policies of the dictatorship and demanded freedom for the Cuban people. Although he has been a constant target of the brutal tyrant's machinery of repression, he has remained steadfast in his demands for freedom, democracy, and that the people of Cuba be allowed their inalienable rights.

Mr. Montes de Oca Martija, as early as the age of 8, has been a target of the dictator's villainous regime. On more than one occasion as a child he was persecuted and denied the most basic of human dignity in treatment simply because his mother was a Jehovah's Witness and considered a threat to the totalitarian regime. Although he has been jailed and detained on numerous occasions, Mr. Montes de Oca has always maintained his steadfast opposition to Castro's tyranny.

Most recently, on July 13, 2005, René Montes de Oca Martija was wrongfully arrested during a peaceful demonstration in Havana honoring the victims of the 13 de Marzo tugboat massacre of 1994 in which 72 men, women, and children attempting to flee the Cuban dictatorship in search of freedom, were chased down and attacked by Castro's security thugs, who mercilessly sank the 13 de Marzo. More than half of the unarmed refugees on the tugboat were systematically assassinated by drowning at the direct order of Castro while they were fighting to stay alive in the waters.

On December 13, 2006, Amnesty International reported their concern that Mr. Montes de Oca would not receive a fair trial in totalitarian Cuba since the right to a fair trial is severely limited in Cuba, with the courts and prosecutors under government control. Amnesty International went on to say that they believed that Mr. Montes de Oca had been detained solely for exercising his most basic human rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

On February 27, 2007, after being locked in the totalitarian gulag for nearly 2 years, without ever being convicted of any genuine crime, Mr. Montes de Oca Martija was sentenced to 2 years on trumped-up charges of public disorder and locked in a dungeon in deplorable, life threatening conditions.

Mr. Montes de Oca Martija is one of the many heroes of the Cuban pro-democracy movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. My Colleagues, we must not stand by in acquiescence while pro-democracy activists are suffering in the depraved prisons of tyrants. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of René Montes de Oca Martija and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

DEDICATION OF DR. PILLOW PARK IN NORTH RICHLAND HILLS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the dedication of Dr. Pillow Park in North Richland Hills, Texas.

This newly refurbished park is named in recognition of Dr. David Pillow who served the city of North Richland Hills and much of north Texas since founding the Pillow-Rush Medical and Surgical Clinic in 1955. As the success of his business grew over the years, additions doubled the size of the hospital. Dr. Pillow also serves as the Medical Director for UT Southwestern University Hospital's Chest Pain Center.

Dr. David Pillow was also the chairman of the board of trustees in 1983, when the North Hills Hospital had its dedication ceremony. On August 28, 2006, the Naming Board of the city of North Richland Hills unanimously approved a resolution for Little Bear Creek Neighborhood Park to officially be named "Dr. Pillow Park."

The new Dr. Pillow Park is a 6.5 acre neighborhood park and has a Texas Mission theme. Included are a hike and bike trail, a covered picnic area, and a playground. I would like to express my best wishes to the Pillow family and the entire North Richland Hills Community on this special occasion. It is an honor to represent a fellow physician in Congress.

PRESERVING PATIENT ACCESS TO INPATIENT REHABILITATION HOSPITALS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, today I, along with my colleagues Reps. NITA LOWEY (D-NY), KENNY HULSHOF (R-MO), FRANK LOBIONDO (R-NJ) and with 70 co-sponsors, rise to introduce the Preserving Patient Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals Act of 2007 to ensure that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, does not continue to implement the misguided 75 Percent Rule and unnecessarily compromise the ability of rehabilitation hospitals and units to

continue to provide much-needed critical rehabilitation care.

The 75 Percent Rule is one of seven criteria inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and units must meet in order to be paid under the inpatient rehabilitation facilities prospective payment system, IRF-PPS, rather than the inpatient prospective payment system, IPPS, under which general acute care hospitals are paid. The rule was first issued in January 1984 pursuant to the Social Security Act Amendments of 1983, and has faced minimal revision to date. Simply put, to qualify as an IRF under the 75 Percent Rule, 75 percent of a facility's patients must be receiving treatment in one of 13 specified conditions. The result is that inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and units are the only Medicare providers that are classified on the basis on patient condition rather than the services provided to patients admitted to their care.

Inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and units provide specialized programs and services for patients who have suffered brain injuries, strokes, spinal cord injuries, and other debilitating injuries. However, CMS has consistently refused to update the 75 Percent Rule to reflect medical advances made over the 20 years since the classification criteria were first developed.

It is shocking how many patients have been turned away because of this rule. The 75 Percent Rule functions as a quota system without any foundation in clinical or scientific evidence, which makes it just that much more frustrating to watch the inpatient hospitals and units in my home state struggle to comply with the regulation without jeopardizing patient access to crucial rehabilitative care.

Our legislation will ensure that patients across America will continue to have access to the rehabilitative care they need, and that CMS will take a long, hard look at the impact this policy is having on Medicare beneficiaries and the Medicare system itself. The legislation would freeze the compliance threshold at 60 percent indefinitely, allowing facilities to continue to provide care to Medicare beneficiaries in need of intensive inpatient rehabilitation therapy. The legislation also codifies medical necessity standards and requires CMS to provide Congress with a comprehensive assessment of what is happening to patients that are denied care in this specialized health care setting.

Congress has year after year called on CMS to modernize the 75 Percent Rule. This year we face a time-sensitive imperative. Unless Congress acts by July 1, 2007, the CMS rule automatically imposes a 65 percent compliance threshold. It is abundantly clear that this chamber will have to take legislative action if we hope to stop implementation of this policy and ensure that our constituents have access to intense rehabilitative care in the appropriate inpatient setting.

We urge our colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH RIVER RURITAN CLUB

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the South River

Ruritan Club in Edgewater, Maryland. This weekend they are hosting an event to mark their 50th anniversary.

The South River Ruritan Club, a community service organization, was chartered on March 13, 1957, and for 50 years has been providing much needed services to the citizens of Edgewater, Annapolis and southern Maryland.

The club, whose members are all volunteers, have contributed well in excess of half a million dollars in direct financial aid, and countless hours of time, to numerous community service projects.

The club awards local students scholastic and vocational scholarships and provides assistance to local Scout Troops, youth athletics, and other youth-related programs. They conduct an annual essay contest for 5th grade students, and have sponsored students to the National Association of Student Council Conference and Exchange Student programs.

They contribute annually to the local fire and rescue departments, the Maryland and Anne Arundel County police departments, and support environmental programs, including efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Our active duty military, retired and disabled military, and veterans organizations also benefit from the volunteer efforts of the club. They have sent direct aid to our troops in Iraq, and provide additional financial assistance through the military's Morale and Welfare assistance programs.

Their work also includes assistance in such areas as financial aid to needy families, victims of violent crimes, families displaced by catastrophes such as fires, and hurricanes, and assistance through Habitat for Humanity. They contribute annually to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Johns Hopkins Hospital Children's Center and they loan wheelchairs, walkers and other medical assistance equipment to members of the community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the South River Ruritan Club on their wonderful record of community service over the last 50 years, and wish them enormous success as they continue their commitment to improving the overall quality of life of the residents of Anne Arundel County and the State of Maryland.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED COMMUNITIES OF SAN ANTONIO, INC.'S BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD HUMANITARIAN AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Communities of San Antonio, Inc., and the USCA Humanitarian Awards and Lifetime Humanitarian Award recipients, on the occasion of the celebration of their 53rd Brotherhood/Sisterhood Awards Dinner on March 8, 2007.

The mission of the United Communities of San Antonio, Inc. (USCA) is to create safe and inclusive communities, particularly among our young people, by promoting understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through dialogue, education and awareness. This year's USCA Humanitarian Award recipients and Lifetime Humanitarian

Award recipient embody the goals of USCA with their numerous civic and professional contributions to the San Antonio community. They are all well known and respected members of their community known for their personal and professional integrity. They are committed to such democratic values as equality of opportunity, tolerance and human rights, values which form the basis for any diverse community. It is for these achievements that I rise today to honor these outstanding members of the San Antonio community.

USCA Humanitarian Award recipient Charlie Amato is the chairman and co-founder of Southwest Business Corporation (SWBC), a recognized leader in the financial services industry. Mr. Amato's civic involvement recognizes the importance of giving back to the community where he has prospered, and he is an active participant in various charities and corporate leadership activities. His community service achievements include serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Christus Santa Rosa Health Care Corp., Board Member of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and Executive Committee Member of the United Way. Mr. Amato has also been recognized by the Arthritis Foundation as a "Humanitarian of the Year" (2002) and the San Antonio Business Journal as "One of the Most Influential San Antonians" (2004). He has also been inducted in the San Antonio Business Hall of Fame (2005) and most recently the College of Business Hall of Honor—Sam Houston State University (2006).

USCA Humanitarian Award recipient J. Russell Davis is a founding member and chief executive officer of Davis, Cedillo & Mendoza, Inc., a law firm with a diversified practice. Mr. Davis has distinguished himself through his deep commitment and involvement in the San Antonio community. He has served on the board of directors of such organizations as the Community Guidance Center, the Barshop Jewish Community Center, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Southwest Texas Public Broadcasting Corporation. His unwavering dedication as a community leader is reflected in his work as the first president of the campus of the San Antonio Jewish Community and as director and later chairman of the Holocaust Memorial of San Antonio. Mr. Davis has also served as director and later president of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

USCA Humanitarian Award recipient Aaronetta Hamilton Pierce is president of Premier Artworks, Inc., a company which promotes African-American artists throughout the country in public exhibits, museums, corporations, government buildings, businesses and homes. Mrs. Pierce has distinguished herself through her extraordinary work as an advocate for multi-cultural education and artistic development. In 1985, she became the first African-American woman appointed to the Texas Commission on the Arts. She was also a founding chair of the San Antonio Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. Mrs. Pierce's leadership achievements include serving on the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees for United Way of San Antonio, the University of Texas San Antonio—Development Board and the Texas Cultural Trust Council. Mrs. Pierce has also been inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame (1984) and the Texas Women's Hall of Fame (1993).

USCA Lifetime Humanitarian Award recipient Jimmy Toubin is president of Toubin Insurance Company, but his real work is as a distinguished civil leader and a passionate advocate for San Antonio's hungry. Mr. Toubin's notable civic involvement has earned him much deserved recognition. He has been named "Outstanding Young Man of the Year" by El Campo, TX Jaycees and was nominated for the Governor's Award for outstanding achievement in the volunteer community in 2001. His community service portfolio includes serving on the board of trustees for Temple Beth-El for 6 years, on the board of the Jewish Federation for 8 years and currently as Vice-President and membership Chairman of Temple Chai Congregation. He also served for 10 years on the United Way of San Antonio review and allocation panel. In recognition of his past service as both a board member and chairman for 2 years, the Board of the Alamo Area Council of Governments Bexar County Agency on Aging elected Mr. Toubin as Emeritus member of the board.

Mr. Toubin's true achievement has been as a tireless advocate against hunger. He is a longtime member and past-president of the San Antonio Food Bank's board of directors. In 2001, it was through his tenacious work to rally Congress and the Department of Agriculture to make available peanut crops to make peanut butter for nonprofit organizations who work with low-income populations. Mr. Toubin also worked as the chairman of the fundraising committee for the San Antonio Food Bank's capital campaign which went on to raise \$8.5 million over the course of 2 years for a new warehouse facility. His determination to help the San Antonio Food Bank meet its goals is evident in his work to identify members of the community who could help aid in this effort. Jimmy also helped organize the San Antonio Food Bank's Second Serving Program which makes use of excess prepared foods from hotels, restaurants, and caterers and directly delivers it to agencies that serve hot meals. He has embraced his role of helping San Antonio's hungry so profoundly that Jimmy, like other board members, would sometimes take a hands-on role; he could be found out on a truck with a driver or gleaning in a south Texas field. Jimmy is a person who believes in change and knows what it takes to actually make those changes happen through advocacy and legislative work, and the power of long-term policy efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the United Communities of San Antonio, Inc., as it celebrates and honors the outstanding contributions to the San Antonio community of all of its 2007 Humanitarian Award recipients. Their dedication to the community is remarkable and I wish them all continued success in all their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2007

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will better prepare our scientists to be professionally competitive

and ensure that the American people benefit more directly from the large annual investment that we make in our research enterprise. I am proud to introduce the Scientific Communications Act of 2007. This program will train young scientists to more effectively communicate scientific and other technical topics to policymakers. The improvement in communications skills will also enhance the interaction of the scientific community with business leaders, the media, and the general public. This initiative will foster greater cross-disciplinary education and improve public access to scientific expertise.

Innovation and competitiveness are at the forefront of public policy discussions. A key element to ensuring continued American excellence in science and technology innovation is providing our scientists with the skills necessary to offer their valuable expertise and insight to the public policy dialogue. By doing so, we will accelerate the speed with which the government, the media, and the general public are able to access information on new discoveries in science, technology, health and medicine, and other technical topics. Better access to expertise from our scientific community will ensure that we, the policymakers, can make the most informed and beneficial decisions possible when shaping new policy directions for our country.

This legislation will provide resources to the National Science Foundation to expand its ability to offer communications training to scientists. Some training programs funded by the NSF and other agencies have already made the commitment to implement such training. For example, some awardees of NSF's Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship program provide communications training for their students. I applaud the forward thinking of those program administrators. Unfortunately these are exceptions, whereas training our scientists to be effective communicators should be a standard practice.

This legislation is designed to encourage the integration of communications training into more scientific programs. This type of training will ensure that our scientists are better equipped to incorporate their expertise into the public dialogue on science and technology-related issues. Members of Congress should take particular interest in this initiative, since we regularly invite scientists to provide us with first-hand knowledge on such topics as climate change, nanotechnology, and new research into health and disease. To ensure that those important conversations continue to be fruitful, curricula for the science communications program proposed in this bill might include case studies of actual Congressional testimony by scientific experts to demonstrate the importance of clear and concise expertise in public policy.

While the training provided within this legislation focuses on the interaction between scientists and the public policy community, the benefits will spread more broadly. The ability to clearly explain technical topics to nonscientific audiences will translate to other industries, all of which will benefit the United States research enterprise and, consequently, our economy. Training our early-career scientists to discuss technical topics with nonscientific audiences will have the effect of augmenting the engagement of the scientific community with other professional fields. This might, for example, lead to more frequent interaction

with business leaders and venture capitalists to inform the private sector and investors about cutting-edge technologies and improve the transfer of research discoveries to the marketplace.

The Scientific Communications Act of 2007 will add an important new dimension to the education of American scientists. The ability of the United States to remain an economic leader depends, in large part, on our continued successes in science and technology research and development. We must, therefore, ensure that our scientists are equipped with the skills to provide their expertise to policymakers, business and community leaders, and the general public. This initiative will enhance the dialogue on science- and technology-related topics and facilitate the development of fully informed public policy. I ask the support of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in supporting this legislation.

NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate March 6, 2007, as the 17th annual National Sportsmanship Day.

National Sportsmanship Day serves as an opportunity for athletes and sports fans of all ages to recognize and discuss the need for ethics, fair play and sportsmanship in athletics. Parents, teachers, students, and school administrators are encouraged to engage in thoughtful and constructive dialogue to promote self-control, nonviolence, and honesty on and off the field. With increased pressure to succeed placed upon today's athletes and students, the importance of integrity and fair play have never been more evident.

In today's society, students face heightened demand in all areas of life, including athletics. As a result, the drive for success can foster unhealthy competition. Sadly, the principles and participation of sport are lost when students are forced to adopt a "win at all costs" mentality. National Sportsmanship Day strives to promote sportsmanship through the defeat of gamesmanship, the practice of ethically dubious methods to gain an objective. Through activities and discussions, more than 13,500 schools throughout the United States and around the world will participate in these events to spread integrity in athletics.

Each year, National Sportsmanship Day recognizes a number of athletes who offer a tribute to their respective sport and enhance their skills with their desire to play fairly. This year, the Institute for International Sport has selected their Sports Ethics Fellows based on recommendations from a number of players, coaches, and school administrators at the high school level. With their simultaneous pursuit of both academic and athletic excellence, they model and promote the virtues of the student-athlete in the truest sense.

I hope that my colleagues can join with me on this day in celebrating and promoting the continued success of National Sportsmanship Day. With their moral, ethical and fitness components, today's activities can promote a healthy and more active community amongst our nation's youth, and support a team-ori-

ented future for our nation of sports enthusiasts.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. EGBERT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary school year of St. Egbert's Catholic School in Morehead City, North Carolina.

The school has designated the theme of this important milestone: "Celebrating 50 Years of Loving and Learning."

St. Egbert's started its first year of operation in September 1956 with 46 children in grades kindergarten through four, and was officially dedicated in 1957.

As a mission of St. Egbert's Catholic Church, the original teachers at St. Egbert's were a group of Spanish sisters known as the Daughters of Jesus.

The original school, which was built for just \$55,000, consisted of three classrooms and two other rooms that could be combined to serve as an auditorium.

Since then, a second classroom wing has been added, as well as a computer lab. The school now serves grades kindergarten through eight.

Many adults who once attended St. Egbert's have sent children to their alma mater, and now serve as dedicated parent volunteers at the school.

Lesley Ferguson has served as St. Egbert's principal for 30 years, and was the first Catholic school principal in the Raleigh Diocese who was not a Catholic nun.

Although St. Egbert's has grown and seen numerous changes over the past five decades, the school's philosophy and commitment to providing a quality education in a safe Christian environment remains unchanged.

I congratulate the entire community of St. Egbert's Catholic School for reaching this tremendous milestone, and I wish the school many blessings and successes in the years ahead.

COMMITTEE FUNDING RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, as ranking Republican of the House Agriculture Committee, I want to commend the chairman of our committee, COLLIN PETERSON, for the cooperative path we have followed in developing the funding method for our committee. We are carrying on the bipartisan tradition of the Agriculture Committee in staffing and expenditures.

Under normal circumstances, I would be voting to support H. Res. 202 that supports the operations of all the committees of the House. Unfortunately, the Speaker has used

the unusual and inappropriate mechanism of the self-enacting rule to add the creation of a new and completely unnecessary Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. We are being asked to support the expenditure of nearly \$4 million on a committee that would have no legislative jurisdiction and would cover no issue that is not already well addressed by existing committees. It strikes me that \$4 million is too much for the taxpayer to pay for press releases.

The attempt to create this expensive and useless committee has added an unacceptable element to what would otherwise be a bill I could support. Therefore, I reluctantly oppose H. Res. 202.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT CATS & RARE CANIDS ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Great Cats & Rare Canids Act along with my original cosponsors and fellow coauthors of the International Conservation Caucus, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. TANNER and our newest coauthor, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, the first time you witness a great cat or a wild dog, you are likely to feel a rush of adrenaline, a sense of awe, and a heightened awareness of your vulnerability. Leading experts in carnivore biology assure us that these majestic animals feel equal anticipation and anxiety when encountering people. When I spoke with Dr. Alan Rabinowitz of the Wildlife Conservation Society, who has dedicated his life to saving big cats like jaguars, tigers and snow leopards, he told me, "Of all of the earth's magnificent creatures, the ones easiest to identify with, the ones most symbolic of the wildness remaining on our planet are the large carnivores, the top predators of the world." He is right.

Lions, cheetahs, leopards, African wild dogs, Ethiopian wolves, jaguars, maned wolves, bush dogs, clouded leopards, snow leopards, dholes, Iberian lynx and European gray wolves face threats from habitat conversion, loss of food sources, illegal trade, and disease. Scientists report that populations of all of these species are sharply declining compared to their historic ranges. African wild dogs and Ethiopian wolves especially are approaching crisis. Populations of snow leopards in Asia have declined due to illegal hunting for their use in traditional Asian medicine.

That is why it is imperative that the United States, through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, support efforts to conserve these predators at the top of the food chain. Modeled after the highly successful Multinational Species Conservation Funds, which conserve rhinos, tigers, Great Apes, Asian elephants, African elephants, and marine turtles, this bill is authorized at \$5 million annually for the conservation of more than a dozen species of great cats and rare canines existing outside the United States. Acting as umbrella species for entire ecosystems, the health and stability of these iconic species are excellent indicators of human sustainability as well.

I don't stand alone in my conviction to conserve these species. My fellow coauthors of the

House International Conservation Caucus and 77 other Members of Congress cosponsored the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act in the 109th Congress. In fact, last year on Capitol Hill, another champion of these animals, the actress Glenn Close, who serves on the Board of the Wildlife Conservation Society, premiered a film entitled *Living With Predators*, to raise awareness of the plight faced by these predators and how global conservation organizations are offering innovative solutions to ensure their healthy populations and landscapes remain. Even just a minor commitment from the United States will greatly support their efforts. This bill authorizes that support.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my fellow coauthors of the House International Conservation Caucus—Representative TANNER, Representative ROGERS, and Representative ROYCE—to re-introduce the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2007. I call on all members of Congress to show their support for these wonderful wild animals and the ecosystems in which they exist by cosponsoring this bill.

PEACHCARE III

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to call attention to the funding emergency that threatens Georgia's PeachCare.

This is the third time this week I have stood here and announced that starting this Sunday—in just 2 days—no new children will be permitted to enroll.

If no action is taken by Congress or the Governor, this program will run out of funding completely within the next month.

And hard-working Georgia families will no longer be able to provide health care for their children.

I call on the Governor of Georgia and my colleagues in this Congress to ensure these children get the care they need.

I call on my colleagues and the Governor to save PeachCare.

These children deserve healthy futures.

HONORING MR. DENNIS EVERHART

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dennis Everhart of Woodrow, Colorado, for his impressive contributions to Colorado agriculture. Dennis touched many lives and shared his love for agriculture as a Vocational Agriculture teacher for 26 years. Recently, Dennis received the high honor of induction into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Dennis was raised on a ranch in New Raymer, Colorado, where his family ran a cow and calf operation. After working several years in the oil fields and with his parents in a custom haying operation, Dennis joined the Marines. Following 52 months of active duty,

Dennis returned home and earned his bachelor of science degree from Colorado State University in 1970. Dennis taught Vocational Agriculture at Woodlin School in Washington County from 1970 to 1998, taking 1 year off to teach in Golden and 2 years off to manage a commercial hog operation. After retirement, Dennis ran for county commissioner and is currently serving his ninth year as Washington County Commissioner. Dennis and his wife Evelyn are the parents of three grown sons: Doug, Todd and Dennis.

Dennis taught a complete program in vocational agriculture, including crop science, livestock science, agricultural mechanics, marketing and management, and leadership skills. Both he and his students enjoyed a great deal of success. Twenty-six of his students earned the American Farmer/FFA degree; 81 students received the State Farmer/FFA degree. There were also a number of State winners of proficiency awards as well as several State officers from the Woodlin Future Farmers of America chapter. Several of Mr. Everhart's students are currently teaching agriculture education in Colorado. Dennis was a mentor to other young educators as well, supervising student teachers for 23 years. Additionally, Dennis was a sponsor of a successful Colorado Young Farmers Education Association Chapter.

As an individual, Dennis earned many awards through the years, including: honorary membership in the Woodlin FFA chapter; Honorary State Farmer Degree; Honorary American Farmer Degree; Friend of Washington County; 4-H Outstanding Young Farmer Advisor; Outstanding Young Member of Colorado Vocational Ag Teachers Association; Outstanding Region II Teacher for National Association of Ag Educators; Distinguished Service Award from Production Credit Association and officer of the Colorado Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (serving as president 1987–1988). Dennis was also named U.S. Steel's Ag Teacher of the year and 1998 Ag Teacher of the year by Western District Ag Education.

Dennis led by example and his enthusiastic community involvement demonstrated his passion for making a positive impact on the world around him. I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to honor Dennis Everhart today for his commitment and devotion to Colorado agriculture.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONALD S. KWALICK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Donald S. Kwalick, who will be retiring as the Chief Health Officer of the Southern Nevada Health District.

Dr. Kwalick has devoted more than 25 years to serving the community as a public health official. Dr. Kwalick earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences from Rutgers University and his Medical Degree from New York University. He also attended Columbia University where he earned his Masters in Public Health.

Dr. Kwalick began his service to the community as a public health servant in the 1970s

when, for 2 years, he was the Medical Director of the Trenton (NJ) Neighborhood Health Center. Following this work, Dr. Kwalick served as the Assistant Commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Health. During the 1980s, he was the Hillsborough County Health Officer in Tampa, Florida. In 1990, Dr. Kwalick began his work for the State of Nevada when he became Nevada's State Health Officer, and eventually became the Chief Health Officer of the Southern Nevada Health District.

In addition to achievements in the public health field, Dr. Kwalick's career is also distinguished for his service as a Preventive Medicine Officer at Fort Bliss, Texas, during the Vietnam War and for his involvement in various professional associations. Dr. Kwalick is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, a Fellow of the American College of Physician Executive, and a Fellow of the American Public Health Association. He is also a Clark County Medical Society Delegate to the Nevada State Medical Association, NSMA, and Chairman of the NSMA Public Health Committee and President-Elect of the Clark County Medical Society.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Kwalick and his career. His dedication to the community is commendable and I wish him luck in his retirement.

HONORING COACH TERRY BUCKLES

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to publicly congratulate Terry Buckles for achieving his 500th career win as head coach of the Central Hardin High School Women's Basketball Team.

Throughout his 17 year career, Coach Buckles has epitomized the qualities that make Kentucky hold its basketball heroes in high regard. His steady leadership and the lifelong lessons imparted on his players have made his teams a model of teamwork and good sportsmanship. His success is evident through his players, 26 of whom have continued their student-athlete careers at the collegiate level.

In addition to his remarkable record of wins, Coach Buckles has coached his teams to six Kentucky High School Athletic Association Regional Championships. In 1996, he took the Central Hardin Lady Bruins to the State finals and later coached his team to a Kentucky AAU State Championship victory. His success has continued this season, leading the Lady Bruins to a 23-6 record, ranking fourth in the State. With his 500th win, Coach Buckles has joined only seven other coaches who have reached this milestone. He currently stands as the all time leader in wins in the Fifth Region and ranks in the top 10 for career wins for women's coaches in State history.

Coach Buckles' hard work and success at Central Hardin High School has been recognized throughout the Commonwealth. He has received numerous "Coach of the Year" awards; is an inductee of the Fifth Region Hall of Fame; and was honored last year with induction into the Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches "Court of Honor," the highest tribute a basketball coach in Kentucky can receive.

I would like to recognize Terry Buckles today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his recent coaching milestone. His contributions to education and athletics make him a remarkable citizen worthy of our appreciation and respect.

IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, this Nation has lost one of the great chroniclers of the American experience. I rise today to honor the memory of Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and a member of the Kennedy administration. He was 89 years old.

Mr. Schlesinger was among the most prominent historians of our time and a widely respected observer of contemporary politics. As an author, he received a National Book Award for "Robert Kennedy and His Times" and a National Book Award and a Pulitzer for "A Thousand Days," his memoir/chronicle of President Kennedy's administration. He also won a Pulitzer, in 1946, for "The Age of Jackson," a chronicle of Andrew Jackson's administration. He was also widely described as the "court philosopher" of the Kennedy Administration.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life of Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., and he will be surely missed. He contributed a great deal toward our understanding of our Nation's past. His legacy of service to his country and his fellow man will surely be remembered for years to come.

WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my outrage at the horrific conditions uncovered at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center by Washington Post reports last month. As a frequent visitor to this facility, I was appalled to read about a part of the center I did not see—overused outpatient housing in disrepair, patients confused about where to go after serious operations, and a tangled bureaucracy that service members and their families had to endure.

These conditions are not only unacceptable, but also indicative of the Bush administration's failure to plan for the Iraq war and its aftermath. We owe our wounded service members, who bravely served our country, so much more than what they have received. Many promises are made to our service men and women before they deploy, and when these promises are not met, we have failed this distinguished group. Not only does this affect current service members, but it affects those that may look at a future career in the service. What message are we sending them?

Madam Speaker, these past few years we have found ourselves in a fiscal bind. Hun-

dreds of billions of dollars have been spent on the war, and we are now faced with difficult budget decisions so that future generations do not have the burden of a deficit. But we should all agree that what cannot be sacrificed is the well-being of our wounded service members. As Members of Congress, it is our duty to do everything in our power to make sure that these vulnerable men and women do not slip through the cracks without proper counseling, adequate care or a safe place to live.

I am committed to ensuring that our men and women in uniform receive unfettered access to competent and coordinated care in safe, clean facilities. It is clear that administrative policies need to be revised, not only at Walter Reed, but across the system at locations both here and abroad. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1268, the Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act of 2007, which was introduced by my colleague from Arizona, Congressman HARRY MITCHELL. This bill will establish oversight and accountability of the Nation's military medical centers and housing facilities and reduce the amount of paperwork and bureaucracy for recovering service members and their families by establishing an electronic clearinghouse. This measure will also establish support services and rights for recovering service members and their families, as well as the Oversight Board for the Wounded.

While we must provide the best possible medical care to service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, we also must pay heed to those that served our country previously. We cannot forget that the VA will play a larger role in the coming years as more service members return from ongoing conflicts. We must promise both service members and veterans that we will seek accountability and work towards eliminating these problems completely. They have given too much to our Nation to expect anything less.

What we need now is accountability, honesty and oversight. I fully support my colleagues on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the Armed Services Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee that have held hearings on this matter. I am also encouraged by the creation of a bipartisan presidential commission led by former Senator Bob Dole and former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, that is charged with looking into the care of wounded service members.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and forging solutions to correct our military care structure and give our wounded service members the care that they earned and deserve.

CREDIT CARD ACCOUNTABILITY RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2007

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, at a time when the savings rate of hard working American families is in red, negative for the first time since the Great Depression, it is incumbent that this Congress provide a new direction for the working men and women who hold credit cards.

Credit card usage by consumers play a critical role in the home finances of millions of Americans, particularly those in the working middle class. The overwhelming majority of Americans who use credit cards do so in a responsible manner, however, they are far too often at the mercy of credit card companies, even when they pay their bills on time.

Credit card companies have engaged in dubious patterns of behavior such as using hidden fees, penalty interest charges, and other unfair practices to siphon money away from the households of working families. The terms and conditions set forth by credit card companies too often lack clarity and snare unsuspecting working men and women into a negative cycle of debt and adverse credit worthiness. Outrageous fees, improper billing practices and highly complex credit card agreement terms should not be the norm for the credit card industry nor should they be a burden to working Americans. Quite simply put, families should not have to hire a CPA or an attorney to decipher their credit card agreement terms and billing statements.

I want the Record to reflect my original sponsorship of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2007, offered by my colleague Congressman MARK UDALL. I commend his vision and efforts to help provide relief to untold numbers of working families who have been victimized by a lack of transparency. It is my hope that in addition to the efforts of this Congress, the credit card companies and financial sector advocates work with us to address this issue and provide fairness to the American consumer.

I thank Congressman UDALL for his efforts.

BDI-IMDI CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION SPEECH

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on February 20, 2007, I gave the following speech in Hamburg, Germany:

The American and European economies are deeply rooted and complimentary. In 2006, the transatlantic commerce—trade, investment and local business by transatlantic subsidiaries—representing three trillion dollars in business and providing some 14 million jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.

We recognize that the U.S. Administration and Europe have developed numerous plans to eliminate barriers between the two continents, however much work remains if we are to achieve a truly barrier free transatlantic market.

Chancellor Merkel has rightly pointed to the need for a new transatlantic initiative as the best means of expanding economic opportunity and enhancing competition in the global economy. We support the call for a new Transatlantic Partnership based on the foundation of our shared values to further deepen our economic ties and to eliminate trade barriers that still exist.

Previous attempts by both U.S. Administrations and the European Commission to develop plans to enhance transatlantic cooperation have resulted in some favorable results, but a higher-level commitment is in order to more effectively dismantle the barriers that limit the economic and trade opportunities in both continents.

A mutual pledge to addressing the barriers that inhibit trade and commitment to strengthening competitiveness and growth in the transatlantic economy is timely. The BDI-IMDI Congressional Roundtable discussion underscores the need for a transatlantic framework agreement in which the governments and legislatures on both sides of the Atlantic commit to addressing these issues.

We applaud Chancellor Merkel for giving priority attention to the Transatlantic Partnership in her position as President of the European Union and support placing the item on the next EU-U.S. Economic Summit Agenda and encourage our respective governments to further cooperation in this area.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN RICHARDS IN
HONOR OF HIS BIRTHDAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise before this historic chamber of the House of Representatives to call to the attention of this Congress the profound achievements of Martin Richards as we honor him on his birthday this March 11.

Many here and throughout our nation know of Mr. Richards through his extraordinary accomplishments as a theatrical and movie producer, having won our nations' highest awards including an Oscar for best picture, numerous Tony Awards for his Broadway productions, and a Pulitzer Prize.

Martin Richards has also blessed the lives of so many New Yorkers through his vision and leadership on behalf of so many seeking hope and opportunity. In 1997, Mayor Giuliani appointed him to a six-year term as a member of The Trust for Cultural Resources of the City of New York. He was also a member of the Mayor's Advisory Council for Theatre.

Mr. Richards served on the President's Council for the Gay Men's Health Crisis, and is on the Board of Directors of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. In 1994, in memory of his wife, he established the Mary Lea Johnson Richards Institute at New York University Medical Center for organ transplantation and research, and in 1995, also in memory of his wife, he co-founded the Children's Advocacy Center of Manhattan, New York City's only non-profit center for abused children. For the past eight years he has produced the annual Red Ball, one of New York's premiere charitable events, which benefits both the Institute and the Advocacy Center.

Martin Richards' life is a living example of the expression that one man can truly make a difference. This boy from the Bronx has brought dreams and joy to audiences throughout the world through his work. By celebrating Martin Richards' birthday, we take pride in the ideals that define the greatness of New York City.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in honoring Martin Richards for bringing joy and hope to the people of New York City and the entire nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FALLEN
AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS FUND

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the tremendous generosity and compassion of the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund. The organization's contribution to the men and women protecting our country should be commended.

The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund began as a conversation between three friends, Christopher Cornelius, Tino DelSignore, and John Gingrell in December 2005. Christopher, a veteran, had just returned from visiting some wounded soldiers and had seen the hardships endured by the families who had lost loved ones. After sharing his experiences, the three friends decided to do something to ease the effects of war on our brave soldiers and their families.

Together they created the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, a volunteer non-profit organization that is dedicated to supporting U.S. soldiers and their families. Since its inception, the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund has held dinners, auctions, and various community events to raise funds and awareness to their cause. In 2006, I am proud to say that the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund raised over \$100,000 in donations that have benefited numerous families in Michigan.

On February 24, 2007, The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund held their second annual dinner. This event drew over 600 people and raised over \$75,000 that will be donated to organizations like Homes For The Troops, Special Operations Warrior Fund, and Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America. In addition the proceeds will be used to help fallen soldiers' children attend college, fly out family members to visit the wounded, and assist in adapting the homes of disabled soldiers for handicapped accessibility.

Today I salute the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund for their tireless efforts on behalf of our courageous men and women in the armed services. There is a shining example of the altruism that embodies the American spirit.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR.
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BYRD, JR.

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Dr. Benjamin Franklin Byrd, Jr., a servant of the common good and fine citizen of our community.

Dr. Byrd was born on May 18, 1918, as the son of Benjamin Franklin and Ida Brister Byrd. An Eagle Scout and ROTC participant, Dr. Byrd attended the Duncan College Preparatory School in Nashville and received his A.B. degree from Vanderbilt University in 1937. In 1941, he earned his M.D. from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

During his medical residency, Pearl Harbor was attacked, and Dr. Byrd enlisted in the U.S. Army without hesitation. He was assigned to the 29th Infantry Division, 104th

Medical Battalion, a unit of the 116th Regimental Combat Team (RCT).

Along with the other men in his unit, Dr. Byrd stormed Omaha Beach on D-Day. He headed up the medical evaluation of wounded soldiers and continued on with the unit into St. Lo a month later, as the men fought across France and Germany. Later, Dr. Byrd served as Commanding Officer of the 314th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH).

By then a Lieutenant Colonel, Dr. Byrd returned from the victorious war effort having earned many honors: the European Theatre ribbon from the Normandy/Omaha Beach invasion, the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters after St. Lo, the Purple Heart, and the Silver Star at the Roer River crossing in Germany.

Carrying with him the memories and lessons from World War II, Dr. Byrd proceeded to focus his energy on the care and cure for patients suffering from breast cancer. He advocated mammography as the best tool for early diagnosis and was a main proponent of the transformation of Nashville's Vanderbilt University Medical School into one of the pre-eminent cancer research centers in the nation.

Over the next few years Dr. Byrd served as a Professor of Clinical Surgery at Vanderbilt University Hospital, Professor of Clinical Surgery at Meharry Medical College, Chairman of the Board of Overseers of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, and Chief of Surgery at St. Thomas Hospital from 1964 to 1970. In addition, he served as President of the Medical Staff at the Junior League Home for Crippled Children and was President of the Nashville Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Byrd served as President of the Tennessee Division of the American Cancer Society in 1963 and served on its national board

of directors from 1965 onward. From 1975 to 1976, he served as President of the American Cancer Society (National) and the organization awarded him its first Ted Marrs award. Internationally, Dr. Byrd served as Chairman of the Cancer Study Group in the USSR in 1976, the People's Republic of China in 1977, and the National Conference on Breast Cancer in 1979.

Dr. Byrd served as a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons from 1973 to 1979, Fellow of the Southern Surgical Association, Fellow of the American Surgical Association, Chairman of the Surgery Section of the Southern Medical Association, President of the Vanderbilt University Medical School Alumni Association and President of the Southern Surgical Congress. In 1977, he received the Distinguished Service Award and in 1974 was named a Fellow of the Societe Internationale de Chirurgie. He also received the Outstanding Physician of the Year Award from the Tennessee Medical Association in 1986 and the Distinguished Physician Award from the Tennessee Hospital Association in 1992.

Although much of Dr. Benjamin Byrd's life revolved around his passion for using medicine to alleviate human suffering, he was also a devoted leader in his church. He served at the First Presbyterian Church as Sunday School Director, as Deacon, and as Elder. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Cheekwood from 1971 to 1973, President of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce from 1984 to 1985, Chairman of the Hermitage Board of Trustees from 1982 to 1990, President of the Exchange Club in 1966, and President of Leadership Nashville in 1983. He was a Trustee of Senior Citizens, the Cumberland Museum, the University School of

Nashville, and Historic Nashville, and he served as a director and member of the Trust Board of Commerce Union Bank. He also served as a director of the NLT Corporation.

In 1986, Dr. Byrd was named Outstanding Nashvillian for his role as President of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Through his leadership and determination, the city became an American Airlines hub and gained the Saturn automotive plant, among many significant achievements. Later, in 1988, Dr. Byrd received the Human Relations Award from the National Council of Christians and Jews.

Raymond N. DuBois, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and holder of the B.F. Byrd, Jr., Professor of Oncology chair, said, "Dr. Byrd is really one of the pillars of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. He worked extremely hard to make sure that we could have one of the best cancer centers in the country. I have never met anyone who was so dedicated to the cause and so willing to help out in every way possible. He will be missed greatly."

Madam Speaker, today I rise to echo those sentiments and pay tribute to a fine pillar of our community. Dr. Byrd's achievements have paved the way for future generations, his selfless actions have provided comfort to neighbors near and far, and his quiet integrity reflects warmly on all who were fortunate enough to know him. I add my modest words of praise today to the many richly deserved honors he received in life. Moreover, I ask the House to join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Benjamin Byrd, his legacy of service to the greater good, and the inspiration he will continue to provide for family, friends, and all citizens of the world.